THE NEGRO FARMER

RURAL ORGANIZATION
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Published in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; Especially Devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World, to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

Vol. 1. No. 3 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., FEBRUARY 28, 1914 5c. Per Copy. $1.00 Per Year

HOW ONE MAN IS REDUCING THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

See Article.—"Feeding a Family of Nine Out of a Home Garden", On PAGE TWO.

WINNERS FROM THE SOIL

COLORED HEROES OF THE FARM

Feeding a Family of Nine Out of a Home Garden

By M. B. STEVENS, Greenwood, Alabama

(The writer of this sketch is not a regular farmer, but works every day in a printing office and does his gardening early in the morning and in the afternoons. He makes his garden practically feed his family of nine persons. Mr. Stevens grows turnips and vegetables—does not simply talk about it, and it seems that if a man who does not farm all day can show such results from a small home garden, the farmers who are "on the job" all the time should be able to do equally as well.—Editor.)

My garden plot is about one-sixteenth of an acre, and is the one in which I had beans planted last spring and during the summer. After the beans were taken off, the ground was turned over with a one-horse plow, after which I broadcasted a one-horse wagon three times full of barn-yard manure and then plowed it the second time with a one-horse plow, plowing very deep and turning the manure under at the same time. After plowing the second time, I let it stand for fifteen days and then I broke it up the third time with a scooter plow as deep as nine or ten inches, running close enough to cover each furrow. When this was done I raked it over with a hand rake and then broadcasted my seed and raked them in with the same rake. This was done the first of September. By the fifteenth of October I had salad eight and ten inches high, and by the last of October I had plenty of roots under my turnips. From this plot I have fed a family of nine, sold a great many and fed some to my cow and now you can scarcely miss them. Some of these turnips weigh from two to three pounds, and if they had not been so thick they would have weighed even more.

I always do my own plowing and preparation, and never miss a crop of turnips. I have been using this method sixteen years in Greenwood.

MAKING FERTILIZERS

All the weeds, grass, leaves, pine tag, wood ashes, plaster, lime, old clothing, shoes, broken up bones, feathers, hair, horns and hoofs of animals, swamp muck, etc., should go into the compost heap.

Select a convenient place for the heap. Hollow out the ground into a sort of pit or basin to prevent the heap from leaching (dissolving out) and therefore wasting more or less of its valuable fertilizing constituents. Put down a layer of leaves, etc., say from 6 to 8 inches deep. On top of this a layer of swamp-muck to the same depth. Let this * * * process continue until your heap is as high as you desire. After covering with a rough shed or shaping the top somewhat like a potato hill to turn the bulk of water, let all remain until thoroughly rotted. Barnyard manure, cotton seed, etc., may be mixed in.—Bulletin 18, Tuskegee Institute Experiment Station.

IN THE FIELD WITH THE COLORED FARM DEMONSTRATORS

The Editor has spent some time, during the past week, in going into territory that is being covered and worked by some of the colored farm demonstrators, in Alabama, under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Attitude of Colored Farmers

While here and there colored farmers were found who had been unwilling, at first, to adopt the plans and advice of the demonstration agents, it is gratifying to note here that most of the farmers are really glad of the help that they are getting through the new "farm teachers." Not only was this shown by what these farmers said at the farmers' conferences which the Editor visited, but it could be seen by the manner in which the farmers received the instructions given by the demonstration agents.

Some Results of the Demonstration Work

The United States Department of Agriculture and the friends of colored farmers throughout the country naturally want to know whether the demonstration work is getting good results among Negroes who farm. The Editor wanted to know also, and asked the question again and again—"What good is the work doing?"

The answers were really encouraging. One woman said: "The demonstration agent has started the people in my community to raising full-blooded chickens instead of scrubs. I'm raising Plymouth Rocks." A farmer said: "I have learned how to raise better cotton, by listening to the agent and by getting the kind of cotton seed he told me to buy." Another man stated that he had produced 50 bushels of corn to the acre on some land on which he had been growing but 10 and 15 bushels to the acre—simply by following the advice of the demonstration agent. Still another farmer, who proved his words by a most excellent exhibit of farm products, said "I learned to begin my plowing in December, instead of waiting until spring; and I made up my mind to try to live at home like he said; and this meat, these vegetables and corn are some of the fruits of his teaching."

Farmers Should Use Demonstration Agents

It is a great opportunity given to our farmer friends to be able to use the services of the demonstration agents; and it is to be hoped that colored farmers will call those men into council and get all the help from them possible. There are only a few colored agents and this makes it all the more necessary that they be asked to render every aid to our farmers that is in their power. Only in this way will it be possible to secure more agents.

Visits to Other States

At other times the editor will visit different States in which demonstration work is being done with a view of seeing what "the signs of promise are."

COST OF A HEN FOR A YEAR

An Iowa correspondent writes:

"What does it cost to keep a hen for a year? We feed soaked oats, bran and alfalfa meal for morning feed, and corn in the evening."

The cost of a hen for a year depends largely upon how much range the chickens have. On the farm chickens pick up grain, insects and green feeds that otherwise would be of little if any use. It is safe to say that the average feed cost of the farm hen is very little more than two-thirds the cost of the town hen. The exact cost, of course, varies greatly under different conditions. Three years ago, in Ohio, record was kept of the feed cost of eighteen farm flocks. In the average flock were 120 chickens. The average feed cost per chicken was 61 cents. The feed cost of one farm flock was only 35 cents, while another averaged 96 cents per chicken. Under farm conditions in the corn belt, we roughly estimate the feed cost of a hen to be somewhere around 60 cents.

In addition to the items of feed, there is the labor cost. In the Ohio investigations the average labor cost per fowl was 28 cents.

If such items as interest on the investment, shelter, depreciation, possibility of loss, were counted in, the annual cost of a hen might run up to $1 or even more.

The average farm hen produces about six dozen eggs yearly, which is just about enough to pay her expenses and leave a little profit.

—Wallace's Farmer.

Kind Words for the Negro Farmer

Wilkesbarre (Pa.) Advocate—

"We are in receipt of the Negro Farmer, Vol. I., No. I. * * * It is an excellent journal and should be supported by our people. Send for the initial number."

To the Country School Teacher

There are hundreds of teachers at work in the country districts and small towns who can supplement their salaries and do some good at the same time by getting subscribers for The Negro Farmer.

We want every colored school teacher to feel that The Negro Farmer is meant to help him or her in his work and also to help the people in the community.

We will pay a liberal commission to teachers who want to act as our agents. Write at once for terms.

Address: The Negro Farmer

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

ST. LOUIS GLOBE-DEMOCRAT PRAISES THE NEGRO FARMER

The thanks of the Editorial and Managerial Staffs of the Negro Farmer are hereby extended to all persons who have been kind enough to offer suggestions for improving the paper; but we would be less than human if our gratitude did not move us to take off our hats and say "Thank You!" to The St. Louis Globe Democrat for the kind words which follow:

THE NEGRO FARMER

The Globe-Democrat is in receipt of the first number of an agricultural journal under the above caption to be published every other week at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, "in the interest of the home, farm and garden; especially devoted to the interests of Negro land owners and tenant farmers and those who employ Negro labor. The only Negro farm newspaper in the world."

On the first page an official welcome is given The Negro Farmer by the United States Secretary of Agriculture, Gov. Hatfield of West Virginia, Gov. Colquitt of Texas, Gov. O'Neal of Alabama, Gov. Brewer of Mississippi and Gov. Hodges of Virginia.

The matter and make-up of The Negro Farmer is in line with that of other publications of its class, well edited and printed, and will doubtless do the most good where most needed—among the Negro agricultural population of the South.

(By publicly recognizing the good features of The Negro Farmer, the Globe-Democrat has earned the right to discuss our paper's defects.")

SOME OTHER FRIENDLY COMMENTS

Daytona, Florida, Feb. 4, 1914.

The Negro Farmer,
Tuskegee, Alabama.

Dear Sirs:

The copy of "The Negro Farmer" reached my office today. I stopped my work and perused it carefully. I want to express my deep appreciation to you for this valuable publication. It will mean so much to my people. It is really what we need. It will prove very helpful to us here in our school. We are doing all we possibly can to bring up our farm.

We have gleamed through your issue so many valuable things that will prove most helpful. I want to go down among the first to subscribe for this paper. God bless you in your great work of uplift. The inspiration is going from place to place, and we are joining hold in our feeble way.

I trust the "Farmer" may find its way into every Negro home in the South. Enclosed please find check for $1.00 (one dollar) our subscription for the first year. I am,

Gratefully yours,

DAYTONA IND. SCHOOL,
Mary McLEOD BETHUNE,
Principal.

(Words like these spoken to souls who were trying to do service for mankind and God, have sustained heroic souls all adown the past. And very, very often the words have been spoken by star-led women. The Editor gratefully and kindly repeats for the writer above the benediction she offered for our paper—"God bless you.")

February 4, 1914.

The Negro Farmer,
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

Gentleman:

Thanks for the initial number of The Negro Farmer. It is gratifying both as to effort and contents. Its field is so large and important till we predict for it a great future.

I congratulate you and the 2,000,000 Negroes in whose primary interest the paper is being published. It is indeed the duty of Negroes everywhere to subscribe and read this ably edited journal.

I enclose you One Dollar for subscription.

Faithfully,
Jos. L. Wiley, Principal.
Fessenden Academy and Industrial School.
Fessenden, Florida.

(The Negro Farmer will not forget your encouraging words, but will pass them on to some one else.)

Texas Courier (Paris)—

"The first issue of The Negro Farmer * * * * is a very neat and newsy sheet, destined to do great good."

Charlottesville (Va.) Messenger—

"We are in receipt of a copy of The Negro Farmer. * * * The paper is well gotten up and the articles in its initial number are of timely interest to the Negro farmers of the country."

Texas Freeman—

"The paper starts out with the best wishes of every Negro between the oceans."

Morgan City (La.) Press—

"The Negro Farmer comes to our desk as a welcome visitor * * * It is our sincere hope that the Negro farmers of Louisiana will support this journal and at the same time profit by the instructions contained therein."

The Forum (Springfield, Ill.)—

"The Negro Farmer * * * is a 'classy' sheet and promises to fill an important place in Agricultural Journalism. The workmanship on the paper is meritorious. If our farmers throughout the South will read it, we are sure they will be enriched with vital data pertaining to the scientific cultivation of the soil."

The (Washington) Bee—

"We have just received a copy of The Negro Farmer * * * If its advice is taken and the paper is closely read, there is no doubt of its success and assistance to the struggling colored farmer."

White River (Newport, Ark.) Advance—

"The latest to our exchange is The Negro Farmer * * * It comes to our desk laden with news of interest to all."

From "Sparks" (Mobile, Ala.)

"A new journal 'The Negro Farmer,' is being published at Tuskegee Institute * * * The object of this journal is to help the farmers, and to magnify and dignify their profession in the estimation of the people generally, as well as in their own * * * We hail with joy the launching of this new paper which has a mission peculiarly its own. * * * We bespeak for the Negro farmers of Alabama and the South a better day because of this venture. * * * There is no reason why it should not be a great success. At any rate we are expecting great things of The Negro Farmer.

(To your kind words, Brother Fisher, we reply, "May your shadow never grow less.")

Tulsa (Oklahoma) Star—

"The Negro Farmer, * * * comes to our table this week with naught else but 'farm knowledge and field wisdom.' * * * If the present issue is a fair example of its future editions its readers will be greatly enlightened and benefited from its columns. We welcome The Negro Farmer to our fold, and bespeak for it a generous support and a profitable career."

THE "BIG WORDS" AND EVENTS EXPLAINED

FARMERS' DICTIONARY

(The colored farmer is beginning to read news and farm papers and attend farm schools and institutes, but often he does not understand some of the "big words" used. This "dictionary" is to help him.)

Big Events.

A bill has just been passed in the United States Senate, setting aside the sum of $490,000 to help educate the farmers. Senator Jones, of the State of Washington, wanted to have some of the money set apart for the training of colored farmers and thought that it would be a good plan to have the colored agricultural schools receive the money for the colored farmers and instruct them in best methods of farming just as the white schools will do for white farmers. But this plan was so bitterly opposed by Senators Vardaman, of Mississippi, and Martin, of West Virginia, that the Senate did not adopt it.

(The Negro Farmer regrets that this step was taken, but hopes that the Southern States will be fair and just to themselves by being fair and just to the colored farmers and giving them a fair share of this money. Any other course will be unwise, and unworthy of the South.)

Beautiful Statements of Belief for Farmer Folk

The selection below, taken from a publication of the United States Bureau of Education on "Agricultural and Rural Life Day," is so beautiful and worth-while that it is published here and especially commended to the colored farmers of the country and their sons for adoption:

THE FARMER'S CREED

I believe in a permanent agriculture, a soil that shall grow richer rather than poorer from year to year.

I believe in hundred-bushel corn and in fifty-bushel wheat, and I shall not be satisfied with anything less.

I believe that the only good weed is a dead weed, and that a clean farm is as important as a clean conscience.

I believe in the farm boy and the farm girl, the farmer's best crops and the future's best hope.

I believe in the farm woman, and will do all in my power to make her life easier and happier.

I believe in a country school that prepares for country life, and a country church that teaches its people to love deeply and live honorably.

I believe in a community spirit, a pride in home and neighbors, and I will do my part to make my own community the best in the State.

I believe in the farmer, I believe in farm life, I believe in the inspiration of the open country.

I am proud to be a farmer, and I will try earnestly to be worthy of the name.

THE NEGRO FARMER

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Send money by postal money order, express order, or registered letter. Stamps in good condition are accepted for small amounts. Postal money orders are preferred, and should be made payable to the Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, Post-office.

All subscriptions are absolutely payable in advance; and the paper will be discontinued when the time expires unless renewed.

Advertising Rates
may be had on application. No liquor advertisements accepted.

All correspondence should be directed to The Negro Farmer, and not to any particular person connected with it

In case of removal, be sure to notify us. If you fail to receive the paper regularly after subscribing for it, or if any error is noticed, subscribers will greatly help the paper by notifying us.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1914

KEEP YOUR WORD, MR. FARMER

If you promise to do a day's hauling or plowing for any one—a white man or a colored man—keep your word and do what you promised to do, and make your promise as good as gold. It is often said, that the colored brother has a "bad memory" about promises which he makes about doing work for other people. During 1914 it will be a good idea to try to remember a little better.

COLD AND WET WEATHER WORK

While the cold and wet weather is here, the farmer should repair his fences, his dwelling house, the barn, chicken house, and all buildings on the premises. Ditches can be cut now while the water is standing on the land, showing the places that need draining.

THE WORDS OF A STATESMAN

We cannot afford to neglect any class of our people, for neglect breeds ignorance, waste, and crime. Suppression is a policy that works both ways. If we deny the Negro the training which he needs to make a better citizen and a better man and a better farmer, we suppress our rural life and hold down our average to a lower level, and we continue to have him wear out the soil, which is our greatest natural wealth. Training of the right kind that will replace obsolete methods with intelligent methods, that will replace insanitary cabins with respectable homes, neglected shacks with attractive schoolhouses, a superstitious religion with an intelligent work for the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth—this is the rural civilization which some think must be wrought as by a miracle, but which nevertheless seems to be slowly evolving as a result of the new type of education which I have attempted to describe.—Jackson Davis, Supervisor or Rural Elementary Schools in Virginia.

COLORED BOYS, ATTENTION

Prize of $25.00 to Boy Corn Growers

Dr. Wm. S. Meyers, 25 Madison Ave., New York, offers twenty-five dollars to the boy who makes the highest record in corn-growing contests in 1914. Claimants for the prize must file their club records at Dr. Meyers' office, with an account of the fertilizers used in growing the corn, before December 1, 1914. Contestants will do well to write for the Meyers books on fertilizers and entry blanks for the prize.

SPRING CHICKENS

Every farmer should begin now to prepare to grow plenty of chickens in the early spring. Spring chickens that are placed on the market early are always in demand. Besides having them for the market, the family should treat itself to a meal of spring chicken two or three times a week. Farmers cannot have spring chickens unless they begin now to prepare to raise them.

Wives and daughters should begin to make the necessary preparations without delay. The earlier the chickens are hatched the more valuable they will be. We want every farmer who reads The Negro Farmer to raise plenty of chickens this spring.

KEEPING THE BOYS AND GIRLS AT HOME

Parents should learn that they cannot keep boys and girls at home unless they make preparation for their comfort and entertainment. When boys and girls get large enough they should have a room of their own; and they should be encouraged to furnish this room in a comfortable, neat way. If they are crowded into one room, they will not be content.

Boys and girls should also be encouraged, wherever possible, to have their own pigs, their own horses and colts, and to cultivate a plot of land for themselves. Too many parents use the children as so many horses and mules. Such parents have the idea that they should get all the work possible out of the children without giving them anything in return. This is a mistaken and short-sighted idea. Parents should make the home just as comfortable as possible in order that the children will not want to leave the country for the city.

CHANGE OF DIET

The human body demands a change of diet in the spring of the year. If the farmer has been living on pork, corn bread, and syrup all winter, he should see to it that the family has plenty of green vegetables, milk, butter and eggs to eat. A vegetable diet will act as so much medicine and will save doctors' bills. Blackberries, dewberries, and other fruit should be eaten plentifully in the spring.

The change of diet will not only help to keep the body well, but will help to prevent the giving of a mortgage on the crop.

SUNDAY DINNER

Too many people starve themselves during the week in order that they may have a big dinner on Sunday. Farmers should try to have something good every day in the week. If chicken can be eaten on Sunday, it can be eaten on Thursday. Don't starve in the week in order that you may have a big dinner for some strangers on Sunday. Distribute the good things to eat all through the week and all the members of the family will be the happier for it.

PLOTTING AGAINST BOLL WEEVILS

The United States Department of Agriculture says—

"In some cases, where, for instance, a farmer has a small area of cotton growing for seed selection, it is practicable to resort to special means of control that would be impossible in general field practice. For the benefit of the many farmers in the infected area who are beginning to improve their cotton by selection, the following suggestions are made: The plat or plats should be far from timber, hedgerows, seed storage houses, and other protection for hibernating weevils. On the appearance of the earliest weevils, the plats should be carefully picked over by hand. This should be continued until well after the squares begin to fall. If the falling of the squares continues it will be found practicable to rake them by hand to the middles or entirely outside of the plats to a bare place, where the sun will soon destroy the larvae within. Of course all other general suggestions that are applicable in the field should be added to these special ones."

Don't wean your colts too soon; but let them run with the mare as long as they can.

Don't forget your family, Mr. Farmer.

If you can't afford to buy shrubs to beautify your home site, go into the woods and get some and plant them.

HOME-CURED HAMS AND HOW TO PREPARE THEM

STARTING NOW FOR NEXT YEAR'S SUPPLY OF PORK

Formerly hams were very generally cured on the farms; but for some reason the practice has almost ceased; notwithstanding it is even more necessary to prepare such meat on the farm now, to say nothing of the other parts of the hog, than it has ever been before, because of the high price of food.

Home-curing of meat is so simple that no farmer should be without a knowledge of the method. According to Mr. E. W. MaGruder, of the Virginia State Department of Agriculture, the main things needed are healthy hogs and sound meat. He says:

Securing Healthy Hogs

"To secure the healthy hogs, give them plenty of range, with as great a variety of food as possible, and plenty of good, clean water. Smithfield hogs are allowed to run at large most of the year. If you have woods to supplement your pasture, so much the better. The hogs then obtain a variety of food, as nuts, berries, roots, and grass. In hunting over the large range they take sufficient exercise to keep them healthy, and develop and enlarge the muscular tissues, that is, the lean meat, but as the work is not hard, the muscles grow without becoming tough and stringy. Allow them a good range up to the time of killing, and do not fatten them in pens. They fatten as well when left out in the fields, and keep healthy. As they fatten they travel less, but this travel converts much of the food into muscle or lean meat instead of altogether into fat, as is the tendency when penned, as illustrated by the Western meat. To have the best meat and that which brings the best price and which has the best flavor, and with the fat and lean properly intermixed and proportioned, you must let the hogs have plenty of exercise and then kill them before they are too fat. Have them fat, but not so fat they can hardly walk. There is no economy in having them too fat, and the meat is not so good."

Securing Sound Meat

It is advised that to secure sound meat one must be careful to kill only in cold frosty weather. After November 1st is safest. The meat should hang up all night to drain and cool.

Curing the Hams

The following from Farmers' Bulletin 479, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, gives certain methods of curing hams that have been tried with success.

There are various excellent ways of curing the hams. The following, used for many years with success on the farm of Col. Chas. Schuler, commissioner of agriculture of Louisiana, is described in a bulletin of the Louisiana station:

When hogs are fat, select any time during the month of December, January, or first half of February, when weather is clear, wind from the north to northwest. * * * * Have your water hot and scald as soon as hog is dead. Hang up and disembowel the animal just as soon as it is cleaned. No butchered animal should ever be permitted to cool off until after it is disemboweled. Cut up the carcass as soon as it is through dripping. Saw or split the backbone. Let it and the spare ribs remain on the side, and make them as long as you can. Hams to sell readily should weigh from 15 to 18 pounds. * * * * * * * * * * * *

To half bushel fine salt add half pound pulverized saltpeter, 1 pound finely ground black pepper, 4 pounds brown sugar; mix thoroughly. Rub ham with mixture. Pack in box, skin side down. Apply double handful of mixture to flesh part of each ham. Then apply plenty of clean salt, never permitting the meat to touch, without salt being between, covering all parts and filling every crevice, and let them remain in the salt six weeks.

After being in salt six weeks, select a clear day, string each ham, and dip in a boiling solution of 1 pound borax dissolved in 15 gallons of water and hang up high in a dark smokehouse (the higher the better) and smoke, using green hickory wood. Smoke daily for two weeks or more, as preferred. By April 1, at latest, hams should again be dipped in boiling water, to cleanse them from all impurities, wrapped in paper, then cloth, and this painted with some cheap mineral paint. Hang up again and leave until used or sold

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GROWING CORN WITHOUT CULTIVATING THE PLANTS

As a result of 125 experiments made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture during the six years from 1906 to 1911, in co-operation with several State agricultural experiment stations and with farmers, it has been discovered that it is weeds that make it necessary to cultivate corn; or, putting it in another way, cultivation is not beneficial to the corn plant except to remove the weeds.

These tests were conducted over a wide range of climatic and soil conditions, that is in various parts of the United States. The method adopted was to have two plats or sets of plats planted in corn. One of them received no cultivation after the corn was planted, the weeds being kept down by a horizontal stroke of a sharp hoe at the surface, care being taken not to disturb the soil. The other plat or plats were cultivated under the usual and most approved methods of cultivating corn.

The tests showed that uncultivated corn land that is kept free from weeds yields practically as much corn per acre as does land that is given the most approved modern cultivation, although the reasons why this is so have not yet been discovered; but the results point strongly to the conclusion that the destruction of weeds is the principal object of cultivating corn.

A full description of these tests is found in Bulletin 257, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

TAKING CARE OF THE MULE

(Continued from Last Issue)

Rub him down, curry and brush him every morning. This will help keep him healthy.

While he is able to do some work by the time he is two years old, he should not be worked that early, because at that age he is subject to sore eyes, distemper, and inflammation of parts of his body, and his teeth are so loose that he cannot eat his food well. Wait at least until he is four years old before beginning to work him; and really he ought not be put to real heavy work until he is six or seven years old.

Don't drive him on a trot when carrying a load; and don't rein him up so that he cannot carry his head in a natural way.

See that the proper bit is used in his mouth. Don't use a thin one.

Watch your harness and see that it fits and that your bridle does not chafe or cut. Examine the mule's mouth often to see if anything is the matter with it.

Get his collar long enough for him. You can tell whether it is, by seeing if you can put your hand between his neck and the bottom of the collar.

When the collar rubs his neck or shoulder and makes a sore, cut a piece out of the collar so large that it will not touch the sore at all. If possible, let the mule rest until the place heals.

Don't cut the hair off the heels of the mule.

Speak kindly to him, and you will find that it will pay, because he likes kind treatment just as do other animals; and you should not overload him just because he is a beast of burden. He knows a few things, himself, and often refuses to work when he is not being treated right.

If you want to make him mean, and a kicker, just get into the habit of being rough to the mule and whippping him.

Finally, remember that a good mule is the farmer's friend, and he should receive the very best of care so that he can help to make the farm pay. But not only on this account should you be kind to him, but because you are a good man; for the Bible tells us that the merciful man is merciful to his beast.

A nice farm makes you feel proud; a herd of cattle; blooded horses; a pen of hogs; and a gin-yard full of cotton, all make you feel pretty fine; but a contented wife, and bright happy children are worth more than all of these. Take some of your money and thought for your family. It will pay.

THE KIND OF COTTON SEED TO BUY

The Sower and the Seed

In His parable of the sower and the seed, Jesus, after talking about the seed that fell by the wayside, in stony places, and among thorns, said:

"But others fell in good ground, and brought forth fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold."

Farmers everywhere would have been glad if the Master had explained why there was such a difference in the yield of the seed that was sown in the same good soil.

Don't Use Mixed Seed

The difference may have been due to a number of things; but it is more than likely that the sower had used mixed seed instead of using the kind that yield a hundredfold. Doubtless he had not read that part of the laws of Moses which says, "Thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed." (Leviticus XIX: 19.)

Use the Best Seed

The lesson is plain: the farmer should use the very best seed he can get, taking care not to mix seed that give abundant yields with seed that produce less. This is as true of cotton seed as of anything else. Get the best seed.

What is the Best Cotton Seed?

The Alabama Experiment Station, at Auburn, tested 27 different kinds of cotton on sandy upland, during 1913, to see which returned the greatest value per acre in seed at $20 per ton, and lint at 13 cents per pound. The field on which the tests were made has been planted in crimson clover several times, which was partly responsible for the results secured. There were used to the acre 580 pounds of home-mixed complete fertilizer which contained:

240 pounds of acid phosphate.
160 pounds of kainit.
120 pounds of cotton seed meal.
60 pounds of nitrate of soda.

The planting was done April 19th; killing frost occurred October 21st. The rows were three and one-third feet wide and the plants stood 22 inches apart.

What the Different kinds of Cotton Seed Yielded

In the table below are shown the kinds of cotton used in the test, how much lint each kind produced per acre, and the total value per acre of each kind:

Variety	*Pounds lint per acre*	*Total value per acre*
Cook, No. 615	884	$125.88
Layton	835	121.32
Cook, No. 672	757	107.91
Covington-Toole	724	104.90
Roundnose	702	103.10
Wannamaker-Cleveland	710	102.76
Cook, No. 613	712	102.28
Hybrid (Griffin X Cook)	694	100.06
Cleveland, No. 322	634	92.68
Grant	620	91.77
Hite	627	91.50
Broadwell	620	91.26
Cook, Defoliate	684	88.97
Poulnot, No. 307	602	87.76
Bank Account	588	86.71
Dixie	569	84.69
Virgatus	576	84.22
Lowe	571	83.96
Hybrid (Toole X Triumph)	576	83.76
King	563	82.88
Hybrid (King X Triumph)	551	81.90
Simpkins	541	79.93
Uncle Sam	595	78.53
Hastings' Upright	530	78.24
Webber (L'ng Staple; at 13c)	504	75.96
Cleveland, No. 304	520	75.23
Hartsville (L'g Sta. at 13c)	496	74.52

During the past eight years it was found that in the list of the five best varieties of cotton each year that Cook was found seven times, Cleveland four times, Covington-Toole and Poulnot were found three times, each.

CARE OF FARM MACHINERY

The up-to-date farmer takes proper care of the tools and machinery which he uses on his farm. The Colorado Experiment Station (Bulletin 167) gives the following instructions in regard to the matter:

Th fact that such a large percentage of the machinery is allowed to stand in the open is partly, but not wholly, explained by the marked scarcity of suitable machine sheds upon the farms. * * * *

In a large number of cases the housing consists of "going through the motions" rather than actually preparing the machinery for storage and then properly storing it in a suitable shelter.

Machinery should be cleaned and oiled before storing.—Whether the machinery is to be housed or not, it should be cleaned and thoroughly oiled at the end of the season. With such machinery as the binder or mower, it is a good plan to thoroughly oil all bearings and wearing parts just before finishing the season. After removing all dirt, wipe the entire machinery with an oiled rag or waste. The wearing parts especially should be well greased with tallow or axle grease. If the entire machine is to be housed these wearing parts do not need to be removed from the machine, but they should be removed and stored in a dry place under all other conditions.

Housing the machinery—To house machinery does not always do as much good as is commonly supposed. In making the investigation, the following question was asked many times: "How should farm machinery be cared for?" It is usually answered by the farmer: "Every one knows that it should be housed." This is a good answer as far as it goes, but to house machinery under any condition, and not properly care for it otherwise, constitutes very poor care.

There is no question but that to properly house machinery is a great saving, as it not only adds a great deal to the life of the machine but it also adds to the general appearance of the farm. It was generally found that where a farmer was interested enough in his machinery to properly house it, he was also interested enough in it to care for it otherwise.

The investigation showed that the life of farm machinery depended a great deal upon the owner. Individual farmers were found who took very good care of their machinery and left it in the weather, when not in use; others were found who gave their machinery very poor care and housed it when not in use. A great deal of housed machinery was found which had done no more work and was no better or older than some which had not been housed but which had been well cared for otherwise.

Cultivator shovels, plowshares, and attachments, which have been removed and greased, should be placed where there is no chance for them to get damp. It is a good plan to place them in a gunny sake and suspend them from the rafters of the shed or barn.

A great deal of farm machinery can be placed in a small space if properly arranged. At the time of storing the machinery it should be placed in the shed according to the time it will have to be removed. The machinery that will be used late during the following season should be placed in the back part of the shed and that which is to be used early in the season should be placed in front. In this way, it will not be necessary to remove a great deal of machinery in order to get what is needed first. * * *

As the machinery is being stored all that which needs repairs or paint should be labeled so that it cannot be overlooked during the time when the farm work is not crowding.

Painting Farm Machinery:—There is no question but that it pays to keep the farm machinery thoroughly painted. This is especially true with such machinery as is largely constructed of wood. The paint fills all pores and cracks, prevents checking, prolongs the life of the machine and also adds very much to its appearance. Two or three dollars worth of good, reliable ready-mixed paint for outside use, or carriage paint, applied each year to the machinery found on the average size farm will add many times the cost of the paint to the value of the machinery.

OL' SAYIN'S AND NEW TICKLES

By Daddy Amos and Mammy May

It's an ol' sayin' dat a rat what ain't got but one hole is soon ketched. Dat must be why debt always ketches us farmers. We ain't got but one hole to run into, an' dat's raisin' cotton, fer a fack.

"Mammy May, you know de ol' sayin' is dat de young rooster crows jes like he heard de ol' one do. You reckon dat's why our boy talks so much and plows so little?"

"Maybe 'tis, Amos, but dat won't excuse him, 'cause a black chicken offen comes out of a white aig. You can't teach er ol' dog new tricks, but a youngster like Josh needn't have any ol' head on young shoulders. In plain words, the boy was jes' born tired an' he ain't never got rested yet."

I notices dat most farmers whistle in de spring, right after they have made 'rangements for de year; but nary a whistle will you hear in de fall when settlin' time comes. Sompin's wrong, sho's you born.

THE BUSINESS CHAT

You are not really a subscriber to The Negro Farmer, dear reader? If you are not, why not? If you are a subscriber to the first farm paper ever published for Negro farmers, then help us to put this paper into the homes of others, please. Every Negro farmer, and those interested directly or indirectly in agriculture among our people, should subscribe for this publication. There are four good reasons why this ought to be done:

1. Every person directly engaged in or interested in farming, should be a regular reader of at least three good, reliable farm papers.

2. We either go forward or backward in any line of activity—we never stand still—inasmuch as the average farmer desires progress, he should make it his duty to study live, up-to-date farm journals.

3. This paper is an instructor, is an intellectual agent; and as such ought to be read and followed.

4. As an advertising medium it has a new field—a field all by itself. That should not by any means be overlooked by the farmer, country merchant, rural preacher, teacher or city wholesaler and manufacturer.

Therefore, let The Negro Farmer into your home as a farm instructor and advertising medium.

Every banker has his special financial papers, every doctor his medical journals, every tradesman his trade journals. Farming is more important than any of these. We want our farmers to be just as widely informed about their farming business as the most progressive men are in other lines. A farm paper comes to you regularly and keeps you thinking—keeps you alert; keeps you "gingered up" to make your farming business pay more, not only in dollars and cents, but also in better living. Let everybody become actively interested in The Negro Farmer, the real live Negro agricultural paper. It is here; and has come to stay.

USEFUL SAYINGS ABOUT THE WEATHER

From the great mass of "old sayings" which colored farmers have often used to tell the kind of weather that is coming, the United States Weather Bureau, through one of its Professors of Physics, has selected the following as being pretty accurate and dependable:

Concerning the Seasons

Frost year
Fruit year
Year of snow
Fruit will grow.

Also:

If you see grass in January,
Lock your grain in your granary.
January blossoms fill no man's cellar.

That is, warm weather too early and out of season means that if one plant at that time, the plants which come up are likely to be ruined or injured by freezing weather later on.

Concerning the Sun

A red sun has water in his eye.
If red the sun begin his race,
Be sure the rain will fall apace.

Meaning that if the sun is red, rain will fall within a few hours or a day or two.

Concerning the Color of the Sky

1. If the sun set in gray
   The next will be a rainy day.
2. Evening red and morning gray
   Two sure signs of one fine day.
3. Evening red and morning gray
   Help the traveler on his way.
   Evening gray and morning red
   Bring down rain upon his head.

4. (This was used by Christ, speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees):

"He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say it will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

"And in the morning it will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering."

Concerning the Stars

When the stars begin to huddle
The earth will soon become a puddle.

That is, when stars seem to get close together, rain will fall soon.

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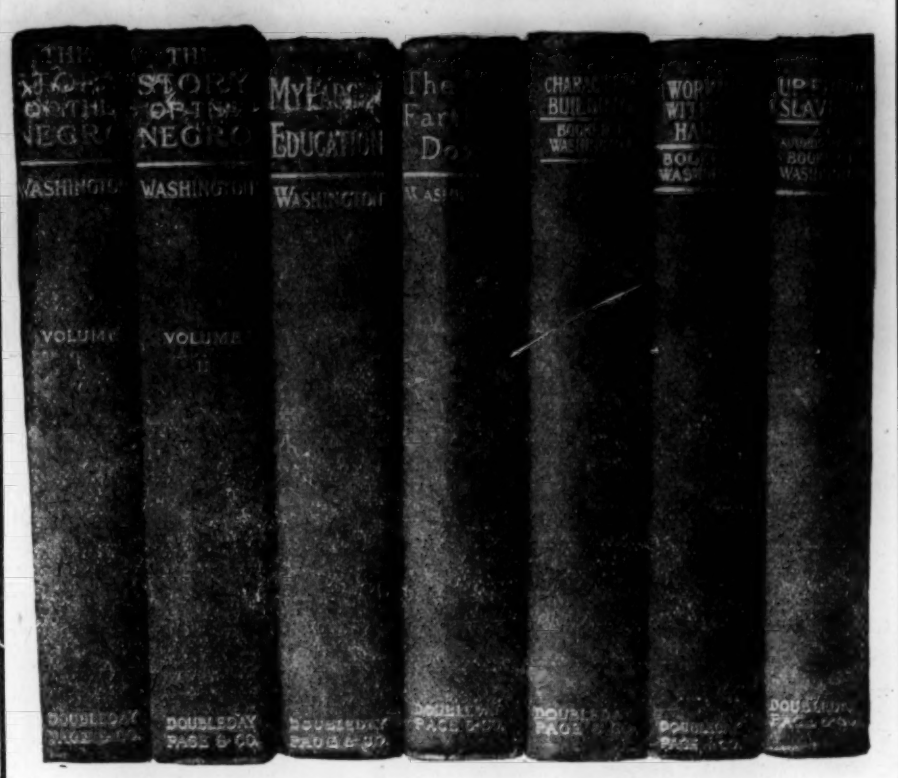

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It has been decided to publish at Tuskegee Institute Post Office, Every-Other-Week for the present, a national farm paper to be known as THE NEGRO FARMER. It will be published in the interest of Negro landowners, tenant farmers and of those who employ Negro labor. There is no other strictly farm newspaper in the world devoted to the interest of Negro farmers.

Many of the white farm newspapers enjoy huge circulations and there is no reason why a farm paper in the interest of Negroes should not prove equally successful. In fact, occupying an exclusive field it should enjoy a success far beyond that of the usual farm publication. It is proposed to circulate this paper among the 2,000,000 black farmers of the United States. The paper will be eight pages, of about the size of "The Country Gentleman."

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